

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



Presentation to
Assembly Budget Sub-Committee 3
April 3, 2002

Reimbursement For Services

Governor's Proposed Budget
2002-2003

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CDF Authorities

(Mutual Aid) Section 51175 of the Government Code states, "The Legislature hereby finds and declares as follows:

(a) Fires are extremely costly, not only to property owners and residents, but also to local agencies. Fire poses a serious threat to the preservation of the public peace, health, or safety. Since fires ignore civil boundaries, it is necessary that cities, counties, special districts, state agencies, and federal agencies work together to bring raging fires under control.

(CDF Mission) Public Resources Code 713 states, in part, "The department is responsible for the fire protection, fire prevention, maintenance, and enhancement of the state's forest, range, and brushland resources, contract fire protection, associated emergency services, and assistance in civil disasters and other nonfire emergencies."

(CDF SRA Responsibility) Public Resource Code 4125 lists the state as responsible for fire protection in State Responsibility Area.

(CDF Structure Protection Responsibility) Public Resources Code 4136 states in part "it is not the state's responsibility to provide fire protection services to any building or structure located within the wildlands."

(CDF Wildland and Fire Protection Responsibility) Public Resources Code 4170 states "Any uncontrolled fire burning on any lands covered wholly or in part by timber, brush, grass, grain or any other flammable material, without proper precaution being taken to prevent its spread notwithstanding the origin of such fire, is a public nuisance by reason of its menace to life and property."



State Responsibility Area (SRA)



Responsibilities on SRA

CDF's goal is to stop 95% of wildland fires at 10 acres or less.

Who is Responsible?	CDF (SRA)	Counties (If Provided)	Fire Protection Districts	Volunteer Fire Departments
Wildfires	<u>X</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
Vehicle Fires	<u>1</u>	X	X	X
Medical Aids	<u>2</u>	X	X	X
Haz-Mat Responses		X	X	
Public Service Aids	<u>3</u>	X	X	X
Structure Fires	<u>1</u>	X	X	X
Who pays ?	General Fund	County Residents	Fire District Residents	Local Donations

- 1** CDF responds to structure and vehicle fires during wildland fire season when stations are staffed and the fire threatens State Responsibility Area (SRA).
- 2** CDF assists in medical aids when available and within its existing budget. *Authorized by PRC 4114(b)*
- 3** CDF provides public service aid when available and within its existing budget.
- 4** Responds on Initial Attack through Mutual Aid.



Commonly Used Terms

“Mutual Aid” (Reciprocal Responses Between State and Local Government)

An agreement between two or more fire agencies that ensures rapid initial attack by the nearest available forces regardless of jurisdiction.

- Mutual aid in California allows one agency to support and enhance another on a reciprocal basis since fires and non-fire emergencies do not respect political or property boundaries.
- Consolidated fire services and mutual aid agreements are meant to contain costs, avoid duplication, and minimize the number of large fires.
- **“7 Points of Light”** When a local government jurisdiction is overwhelmed and an incident is likely to exceed, or has exceeded, the ability of a responsible entity to control the event, provisions of the California Fire Services and Rescue Mutual Aid System’s Mutual Aid Plan provide for assistance without reimbursement of the states resources, (as defined in the California Emergency Services Act). This assistance is requested through the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (OES).
- The intermingling of agreements within the state makes this cooperative assistance possible. Changes to the mutual aid system would make fire and emergency response support difficult.



Commonly Used Terms

“Unprotected” (No State or Local Government Services Available)

Includes areas that have no fire or emergency response services provided by any fire district, volunteer fire department, county, etc.

- These areas may fall within SRA, however, CDF has no responsibility to provide structural fire protection services, other than during fire season when assets burning within the unprotected area threaten SRA.
- CDF estimates that there are an estimated 40,000 homes that fall into unprotected SRA.

“Schedule A” (Local Government Pays For CDF Services)

Public Resources Code 4142 allows CDF to provide fire protection/emergency services to local governments under contracts.

- All costs for providing these services are reimbursed to CDF by the local agency. This includes an administrative rate to cover indirect costs associated with the contract.
- These local government contracts provide CDF an increased depth of resources to accomplish its fire protection mission.
- Local government with Schedule A agreements include Butte, Riverside, Shasta, Orange, Pebble Beach.

“Schedule B” (General Fund Pays For CDF Services)

identifies the state’s costs associated with CDF’s mission to protect the State Responsibility Area lands from wildland fires. These costs are documented each year in the State’s Budget and funded from the State’s General Fund.

“Schedule C” (Local Government Pays For CDF Oversight of Personnel)

identifies personnel and operational costs paid directly by a local government agency. Schedule C employees may be volunteer, city, or county personnel who are under the direct supervision of CDF.



Commonly Used Terms

“Contract Counties” (CDF Pays Local Government For Services)

Section 4133 of the Public Resources Code and Section 55607 of the government Code permit the CDF director to contract with counties for protection of SRA. Section 4129 of the Public Resources Code directs that there shall be budgeted sums to be allocated to those counties at least equal to the direct cost of fire protection which is determined pursuant to Section 4130 of the Code, which shall include the salaries and wages of suppression crews and lookouts and maintenance of fire fighting facilities. In addition, funding for fire prevention assistants, dispatch, special repairs, an administrative allotment, and pre-fire management positions is provided.

The counties of Kern, Los Angeles, Marin, Orange, Santa Barbara and Ventura have assumed this responsibility and are commonly known as “contract counties.” These counties provide direct protection to 3,450,304 acres of State Responsibility Area.

“Amador Plan -Public Resources Code 4144” (Local Government Pays CDF For Services During Winter/Non-Fire Season)

This allows the local agencies to contract with CDF for local agency fire protection services during the “non-fire” season period. The local agency must reimburse CDF for any added costs associated with this service.

“California Emergency Plan”

Authorizes the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services to task CDF to respond when a general state of emergency is declared on such incidents as floods, earthquakes, hazardous material releases, riots, and acts of terrorism. Other agencies may also request assistance from CDF via OES.



Benefits of CDF Fire Protection Services

Resource Protected

Beneficiaries

■ Life and Safety.....	State Responsibility Area (SRA) residents and visitors
■ Structures.....	SRA residents and Local Responsibility Area (LRA) residents adjacent to fire threats
■ Watershed Protection.....	Regional and state water users
■ Open Space.....	Local and regional viewers of open space
■ Timber.....	Timberland owners and local economies
■ Range.....	Rangeland owners and local economies
■ Recreation.....	SRA residents and visitors, and state and local economies.
■ Wildlife Habitats.....	Landowners and state
■ Endangered Species.....	Landowners and state
■ Historic and Cultural Assets.....	Tribes and state
■ Coastal, Wild and Scenic Rivers and Other Scenic Assets.....	State residents, and state and local economies
■ Local Economic Disruption.....	Regional residents



Fire Protection is a System

Fire protection in California is an efficient, integrated system of local, state and federal resources. The following maps illustrate the overlay of local Fire Protection Districts on State Responsibility Area (SRA).

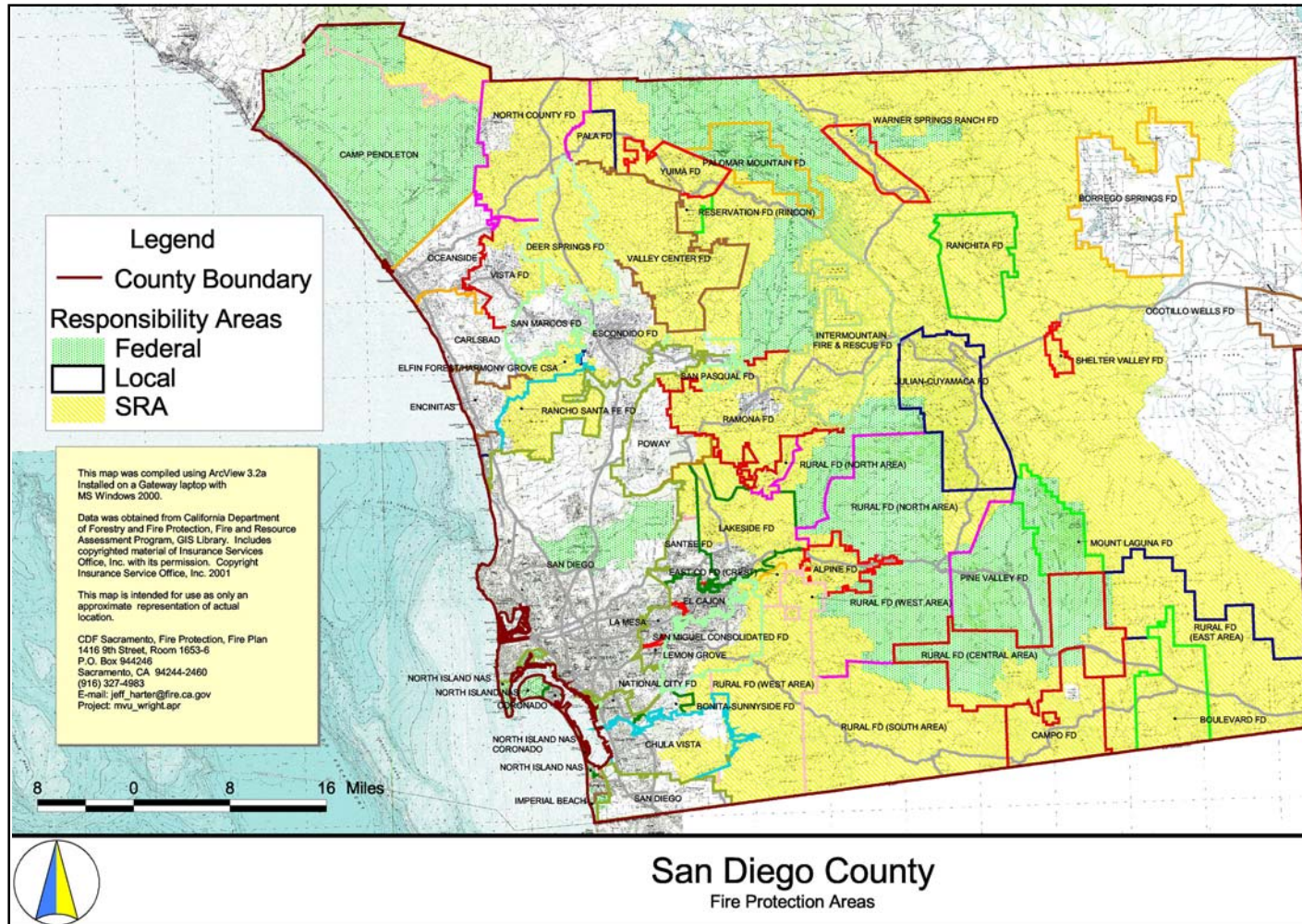
These Fire Protection Districts have primary responsibility for life and property protection and are often the first responders on wildland fires.

The maps include:

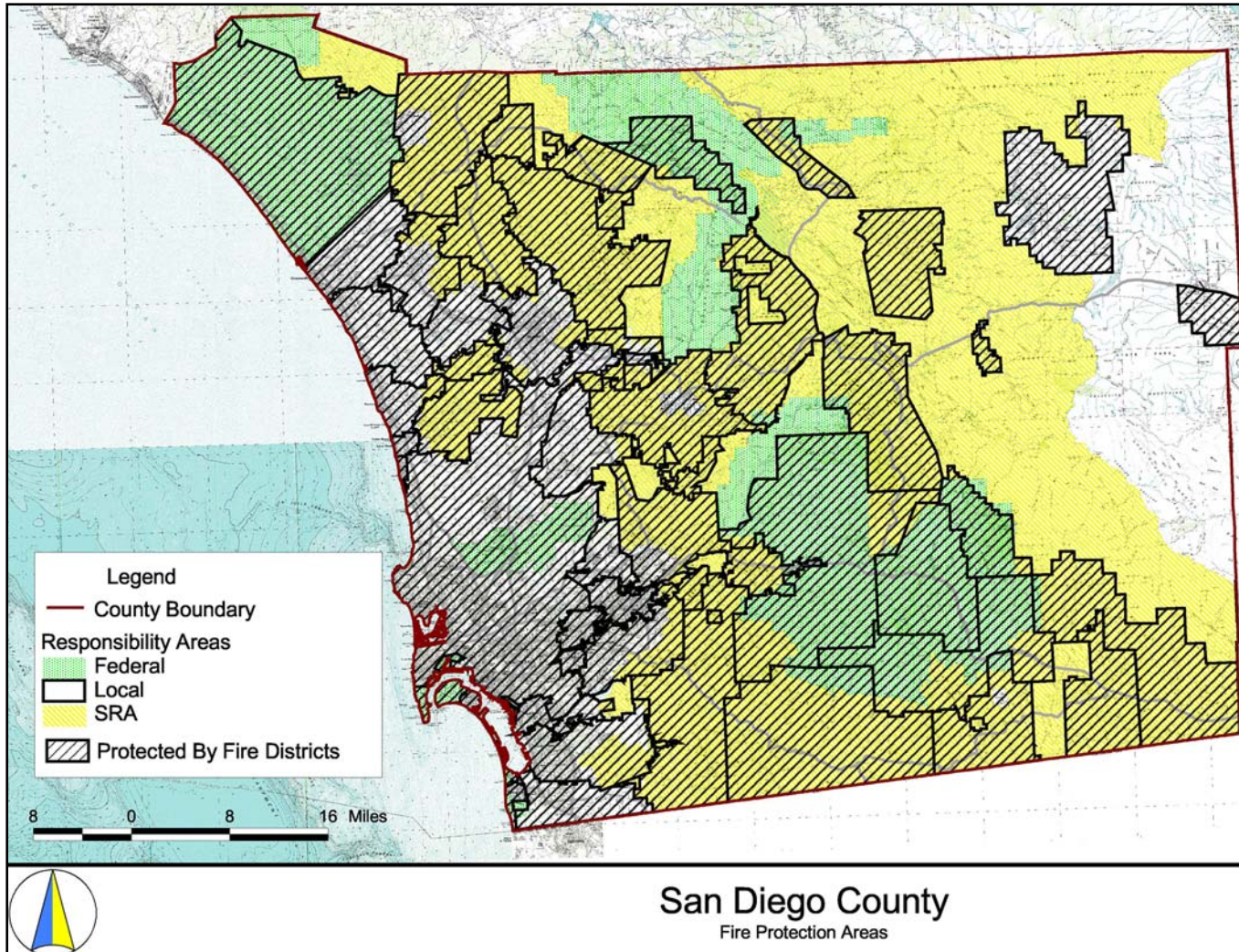
- San Diego – An urban-rural intermix of high density
- Amador/El Dorado – A Sierra interface of medium density
- Siskiyou – A rural area of low density



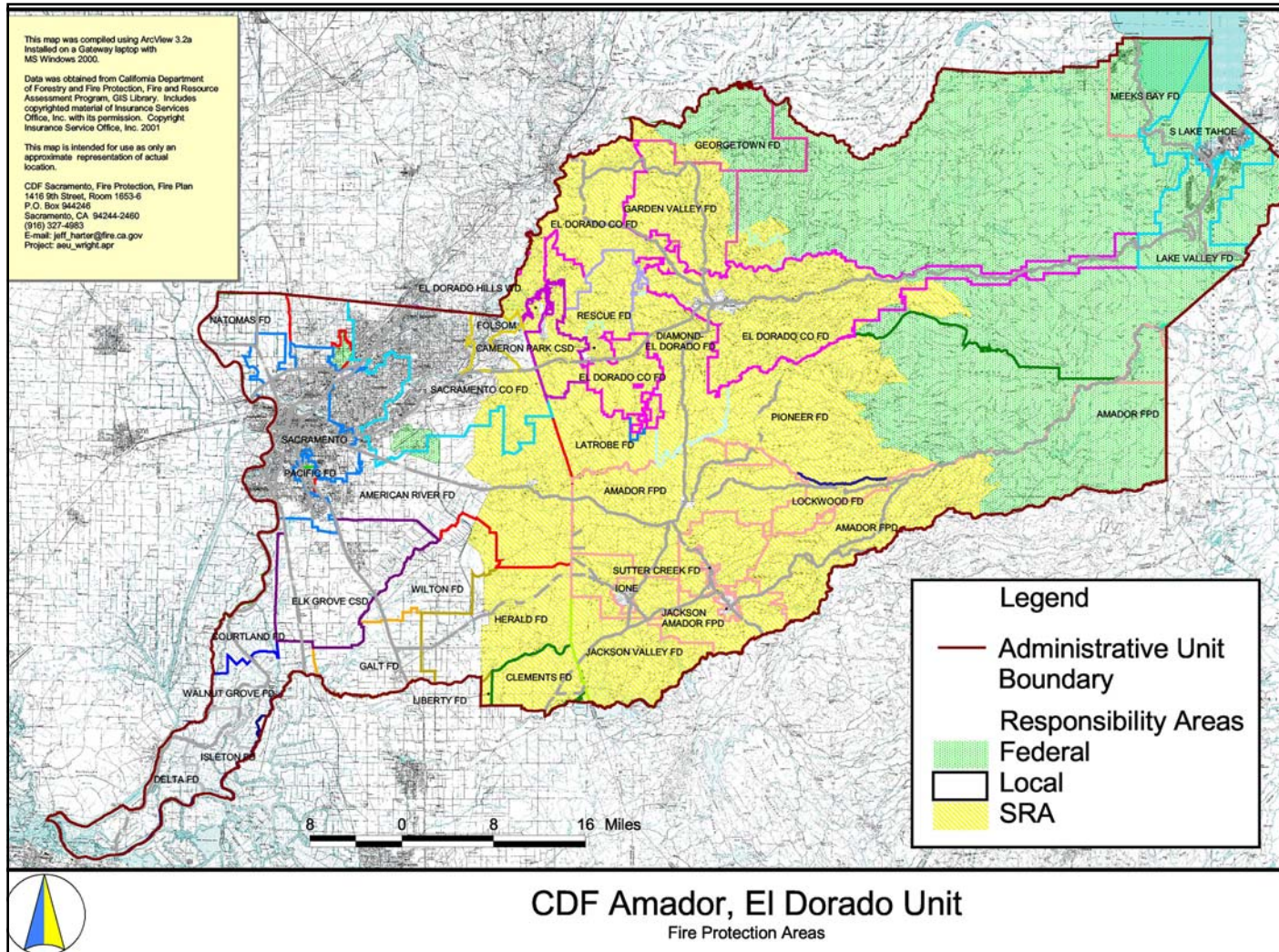
The Fire Protection System – San Diego



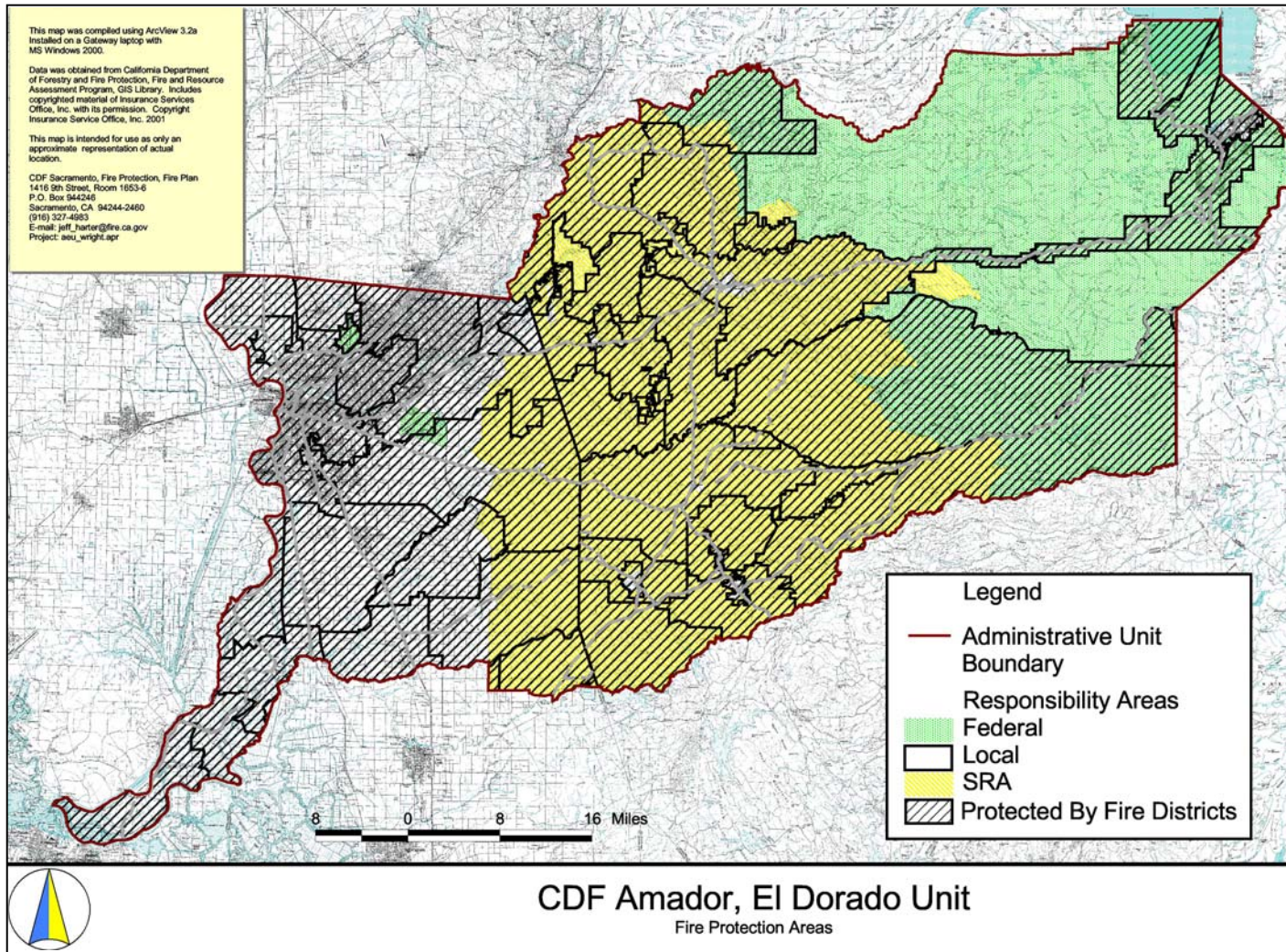
The Fire Protection System – San Diego



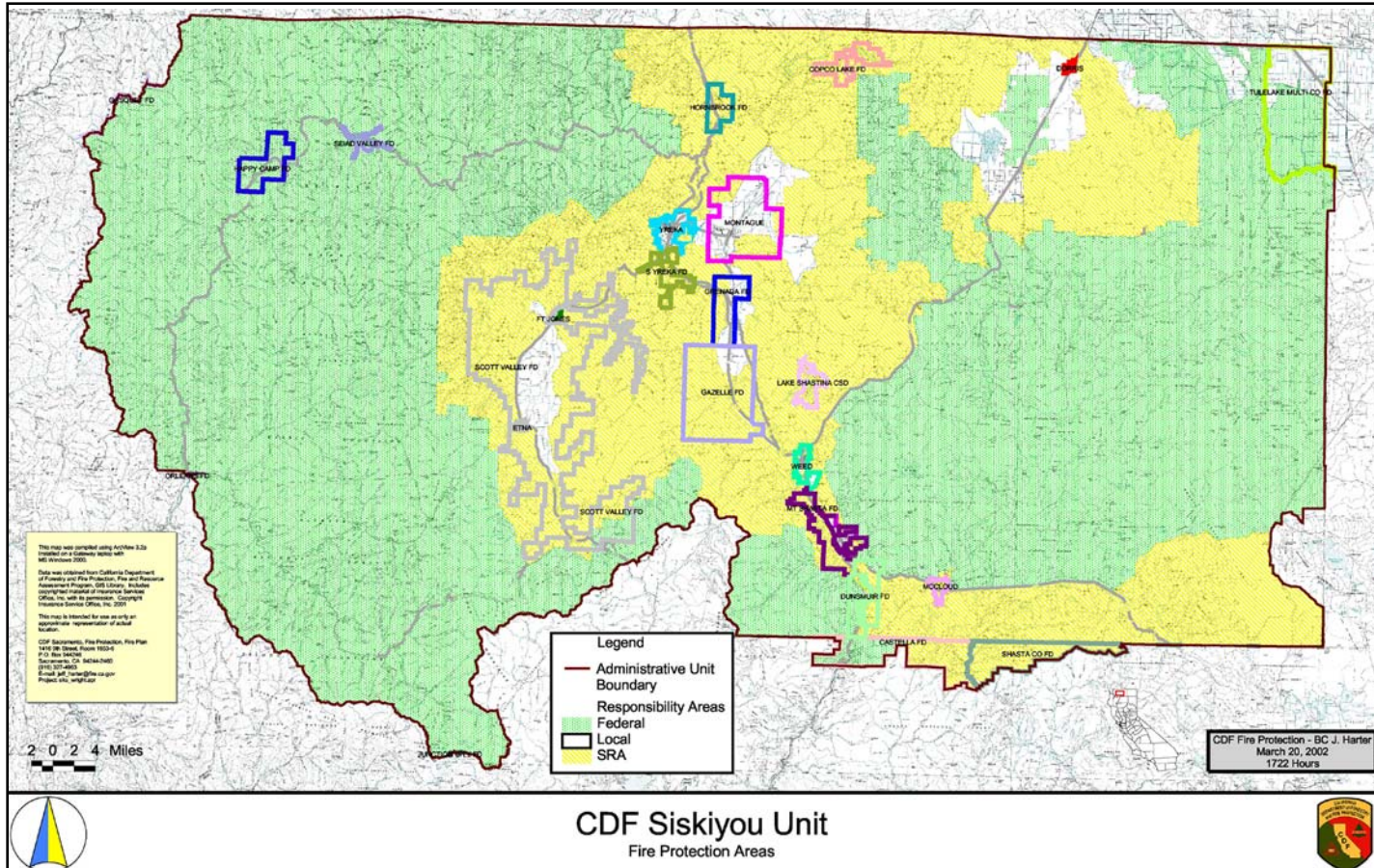
The Fire Protection System – Amador-El Dorado



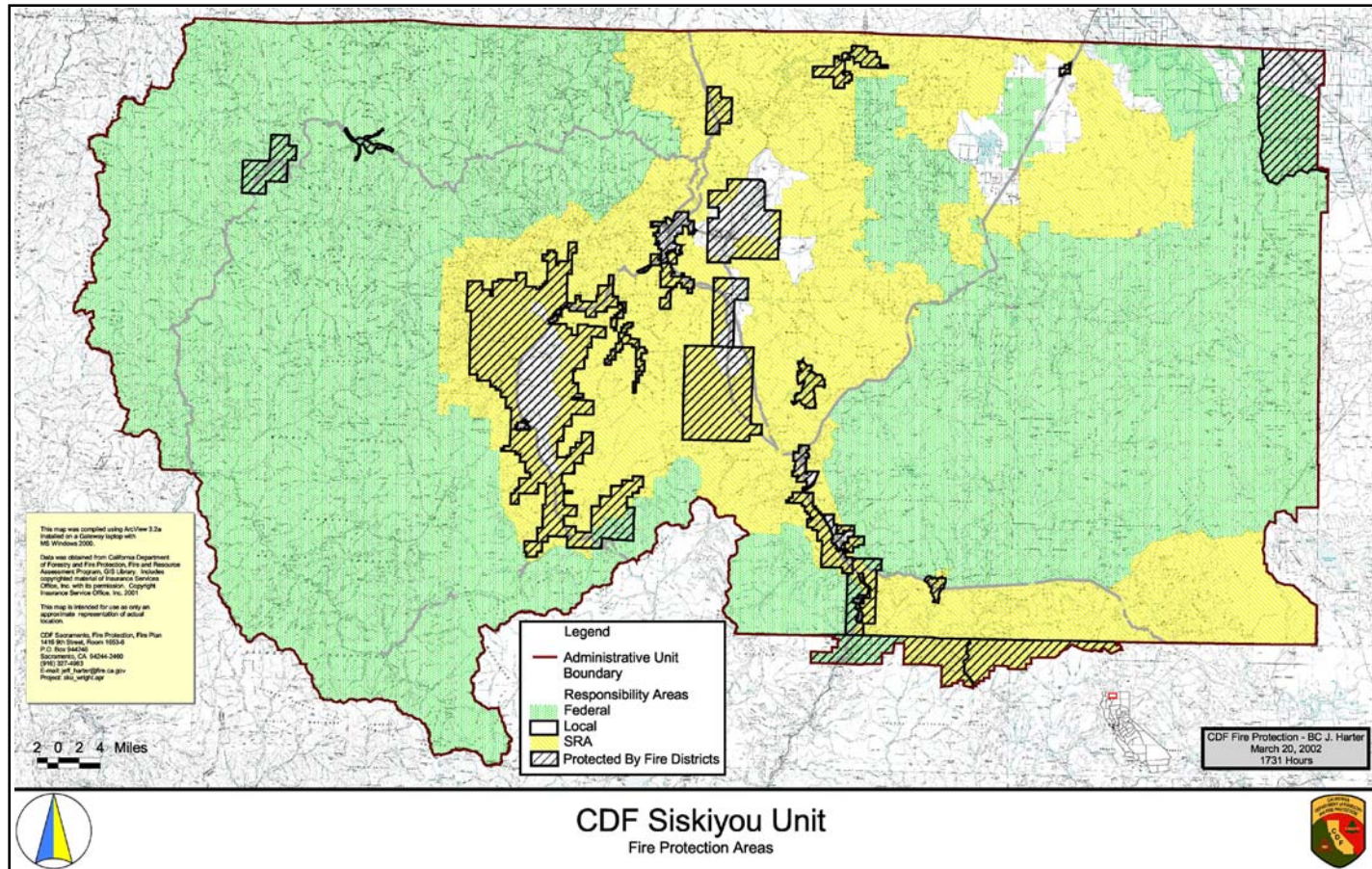
The Fire Protection System – Amador-El Dorado



The Fire Protection System - Siskiyou



The Fire Protection System - Siskiyou



Fire Protection is a System

The following charts depict two weeks of emergency incident responses in three different CDF Units. One week of emergency incidents falls during the middle of winter (non-fire season), and one week of responses falls within peak fire season.

- Each week shows CDF and Local Government engine responses to SRA and LRA incidents.
- “Type” indicates Fire and Non-Fires. Non-Fires include calls to traffic accidents, emergency medical services, hazardous materials, etc.
- The charts also show the arrival of equipment as “1st on scene”. This indicates which responders arrived at the call to take first action.
- Analysis of the data shows that the responsible agencies respond and take primary action within their own jurisdictions.
- It also shows that it is mutually beneficial to provide automatic aid to each other in order to get the closest first emergency responders to the call without regard to boundary lines.



CDF/Local Government Response

San Diego Unit (MVU)

**February
10-16, 2001
Non-Fire
Season**

SRA		Local Fire, Schedule A, or Amador Response	CDF Engine response
<u>Number</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>1st on Scene</u>	<u>1st on Scene</u>
9	Fire	9	0
60	Non-Fire	51	9

LRA		Local Fire, Schedule A, or Amador Response	CDF Engine response
<u>Number</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>1st on Scene</u>	<u>1st on Scene</u>
0	Fire	0	0
10	Non-Fire	10	0

**August
12-18, 2001
Peak Fire
Season**

SRA		Local Fire, Schedule A, or Amador Response	CDF Engine response
<u>Number</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>1st on Scene</u>	<u>1st on Scene</u>
32	Fire	4	28
21	Non-Fire	11	10

LRA		Local Fire, Schedule A, or Amador Response	CDF Engine response
<u>Number</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>1st on Scene</u>	<u>1st on Scene</u>
11	Fire	4	7
114	Non-Fire	74	40

Note: San Diego County and Local Government have their own dispatch centers and do not report to CDF. Local Fire response in this case refers only to Schedule "A" and Amador resources.



CDF/Local Government Response

Amador-El Dorado Unit (AEU)

**February
10-16, 2001
Non-Fire
Season**

SRA		Local Fire, Schedule A, or Amador Response	CDF Engine response
<u>Number</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>1st on Scene</u>	<u>1st on Scene</u>
38	Fire	27	11
245	Non-Fire	187	58

LRA		Local Fire, Schedule A, or Amador Response	CDF Engine response
<u>Number</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>1st on Scene</u>	<u>1st on Scene</u>
7	Fire	4	3
95	Non-Fire	74	21

**August
12-18, 2001
Peak Fire
Season**

SRA		Local Fire, Schedule A, or Amador Response	CDF Engine response
<u>Number</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>1st on Scene</u>	<u>1st on Scene</u>
52	Fire	31	21
188	Non-Fire	143	45

LRA		Local Fire, Schedule A, or Amador Response	CDF Engine response
<u>Number</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>1st on Scene</u>	<u>1st on Scene</u>
11	Fire	8	3
88	Non-Fire	73	15



CDF/Local Government Response

Siskiyou Unit (SKU)

**February
10-16, 2001
Non-Fire
Season**

SRA		Local Fire, Schedule A, or Amador Response	CDF Engine response
<u>Number</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>1st on Scene</u>	<u>1st on Scene</u>
3	Fire	1	2
21	Non-Fire	17	4

LRA		Local Fire, Schedule A, or Amador Response	CDF Engine response
<u>Number</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>1st on Scene</u>	<u>1st on Scene</u>
2	Fire	2	0
38	Non-Fire	32	6

**August
12-18, 2001
Peak Fire
Season**

SRA		Local Fire, Schedule A, or Amador Response	CDF Engine response
<u>Number</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>1st on Scene</u>	<u>1st on Scene</u>
20	Fire	2	18
21	Non-Fire	11	10

LRA		Local Fire, Schedule A, or Amador Response	CDF Engine response
<u>Number</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>1st on Scene</u>	<u>1st on Scene</u>
3	Fire	2	1
46	Non-Fire	33	13



Local Government Responds

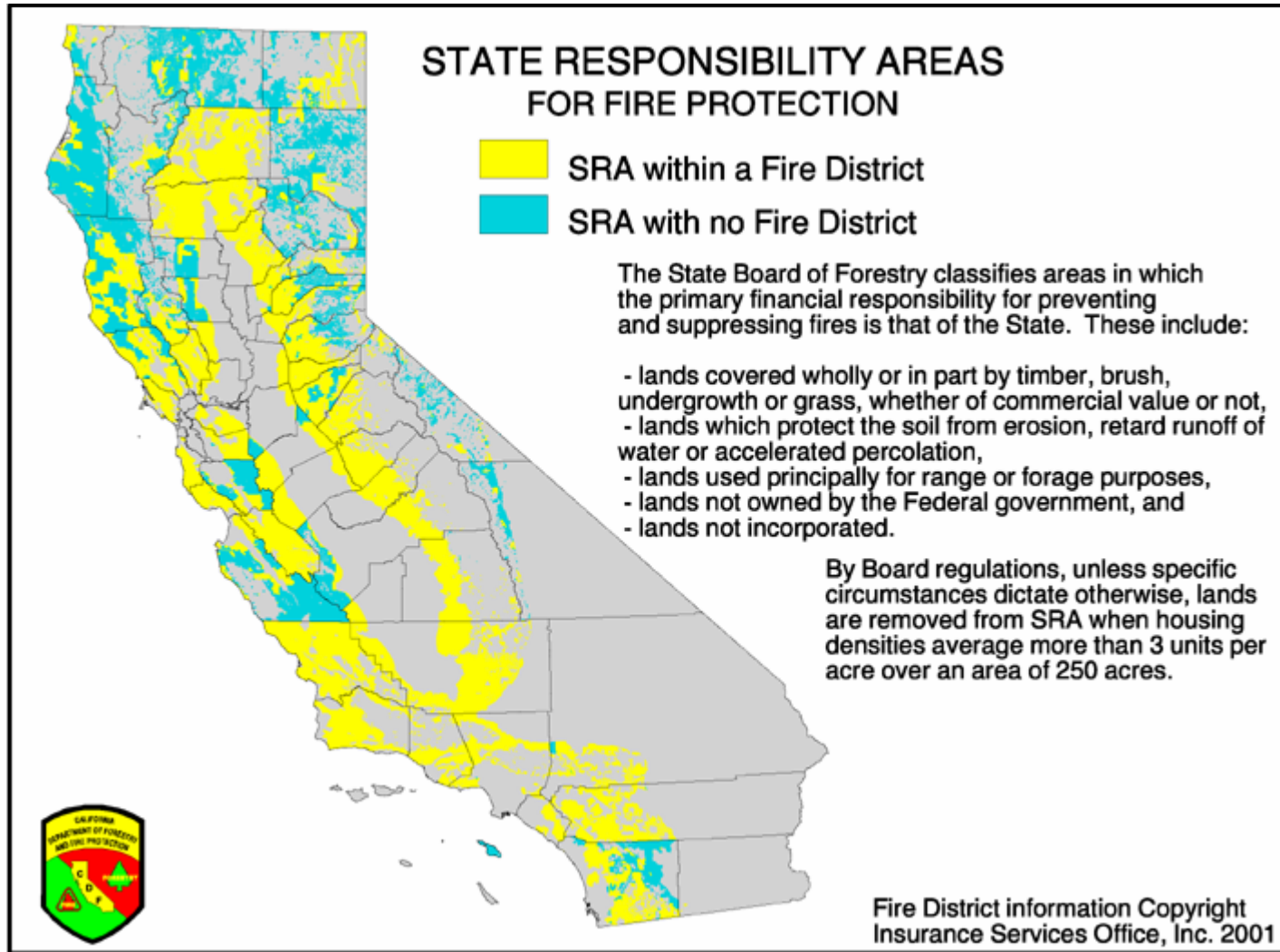
- There are approximately 1000 fire departments in California. These local government entities respond to the majority of non-wildland fires and emergency responses within the state.
- A number of counties have SRA, but little or no CDF personnel or equipment available for immediate response.

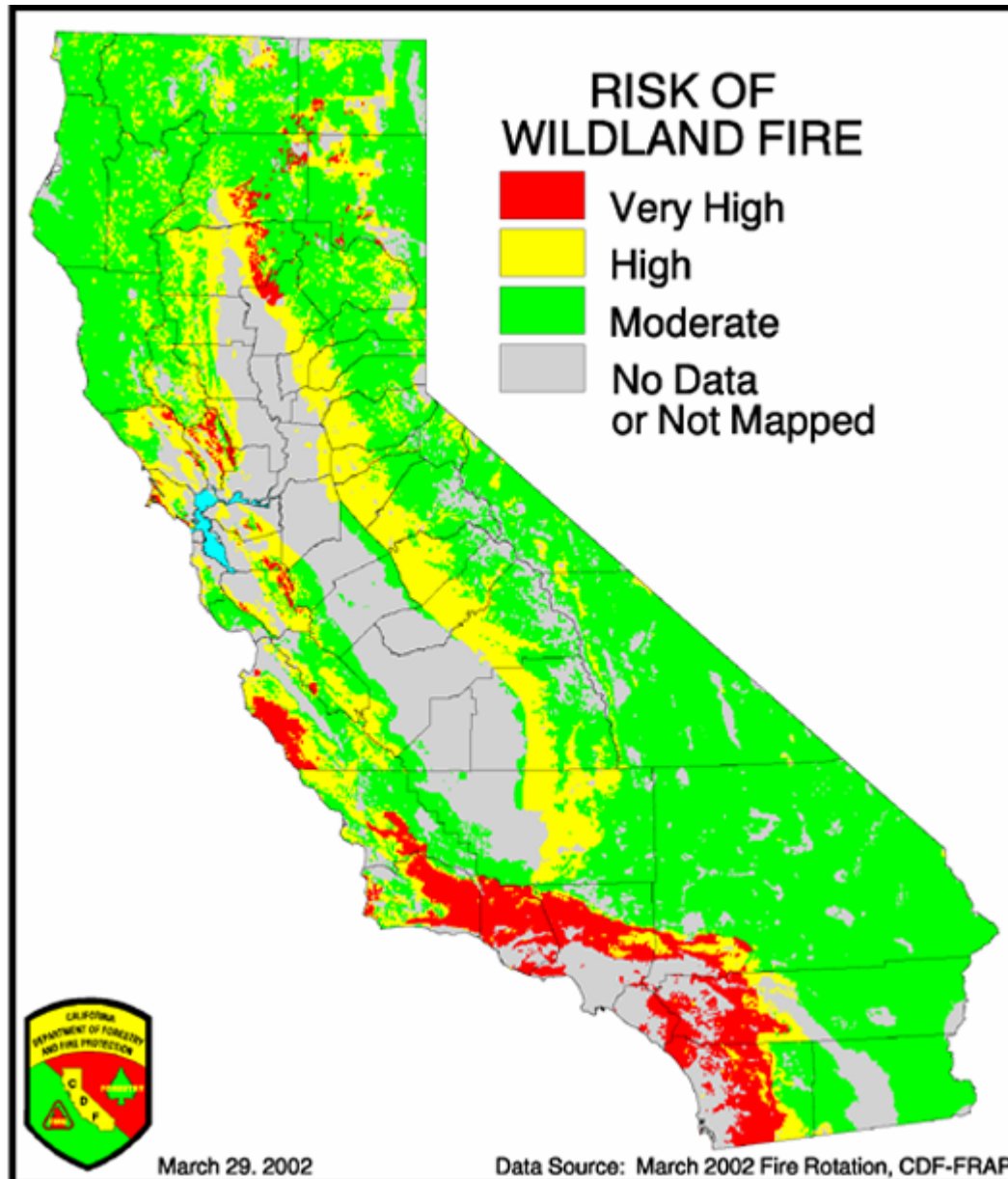
FOR EXAMPLE:

<u>County</u>	<u>SRA Acres</u>	<u>CDF Presence</u>	<u>Local County Presence</u>
Alameda	251,768	(1) Station	(11) County Stations
Alpine	41,643	No Facilities	(2) County Stations
Colusa	266,141	(1) Station	(1) County Stations
Contra Costa	194,943	(1) Station	(28) County Stations
Imperial	2,110	No Facilities	(1) County Stations
Inyo	222,523	(2) Stations and (1) Conservation Camp	(0) County Stations
Kings	97,936	No Facilities	(11) County Stations
Mono	221,669	No Facilities	(0) County Stations
Plumas	440,995	No Facilities	(0) County Stations
Sacramento	118,134	No Facilities	(31) County Stations
San Joaquin	146,813	(1) Station	(0) County Stations
Sierra	162,427	No Facilities	(3) County Stations
Solano	86,437	(1) Conservation Camp	(0) County Stations
Stanislaus	448,801	(1) Station	(7) County Stations



Local Government Responds





Not All Acres Are Alike

The relative risk of wildfire plays an important role in choosing an approach to the reimbursement or fee options.

